

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 /045 W
-----034312 272320Z /14
R 260943Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 154

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 1537

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, IT
SUBJECT: MFA NOTE ON AMBASSADORIAL TRAVEL

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED COPY OF CIRCULAR NOTE FROM MFA WHICH CLAIMS TO REITERATE (WE DO NOT HAVE COPY OF ANY EARLIER COMMUNICATION ON SUBJECT IN OUR FILES) REQUIREMENT THAT EMBASSY NOTIFY MFA OF ANY TRAVEL (OTHER THAN FOR PERSONAL OR RECREATIONAL PURPOSES) BY AMBASSADOR WITHIN ITALY WHICH INVOLVES OFFICIAL ACTIVITY AND VISITS, EVEN IF ONLY COURTESY CALLS, TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES. NOTIFICATION IS TO BE MADE IN ADVANCE AND IN SUFFICIENT TIME TO PERMIT MINISTRY TO MAKE "THE NECESSARY CONTACTS FOR THE GREATER SUCCESS OF THE VISIT". NOTE, GIVING SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS AS MAIN JUSTIFICATION, ALSO CITES FAILURE OF EMBASSIES TO MAKE "NECESSARY CONTACT" WITH PREFECTS DURING VISITS.

2. MFA CONTACT TELLS US THAT REAL REASON FOR REQUIREMENT IS TO ENABLE GOI TO KEEP CLOSER WATCH ON SOVIET AND EASTERN EUROPEAN AMBASSADORS, WHO ARE OFTEN IN TOUCH WITH LOCAL COMMUNIST OFFICIALS WITHOUT GOI'S KNOWLEDGE. AT LUNCHEON MEETING ON OTHER SUBJECTS, AMBASSADOR RAISED QUESTION OF NOTE WITH BRITISH, FRENCH, WEST GERMAN, CANADIAN, AND JAPANESE AMBASSADORS. UK AND FRG AMBASSADORS SAID
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THAT REQUIREMENT IS NOT NEW; THAT REASON FOR IT IS, AS MFA CONTACT SAID, TO CONTROL SOVIET AND EASTERN EUROPEANS; AND THAT THEY FIND IT ACCEPTABLE AND ROUTINELY COMPLY WITH IT. CANADIAN AND JAPANESE AMBASSADORS WERE UNAWARE OF NOTE. FRENCH AMBASSADOR FELT THAT MFA REQUIREMENT WAS NOT APPROPRIATE BUT SAID THAT SINCE HE HAD ALREADY MADE INITIAL ROUND OF CALLS

ON PREFECTS, HE CONSIDERED THAT HIS "OFFICIAL" VISITS
HAD BEEN COMPLETED AND THAT THERE WOULD BE NO FUTURE
NECESSITY TO NOTIFY MFA OF HIS TRAVEL.

3. EMBASSY SEEKS DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE ON HANDLING
OF ISSUE. NOTE BEING POUCHED TO EUR/WE.GARDNER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Handling Restrictions:
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ISecure: 1
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Litigation Codes:
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